

God's Everlasting Kingdom

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- I. Introduction
 - a. The church is part of the eternal plan of God (Eph 3:10-11)
 - b. We want to answer two questions:
 - i. What did the prophets foresee about the church and the kingdom?
 - ii. When was the church and the kingdom established?
- II. KEY STATEMENT:
- III. The church in OT prophecy
 - a. Isa. 2:2-3
 - i. The Lord's house will be established
 - ii. The law will go forth from Jerusalem
 - iii. In the latter (last) days
 - b. Daniel 2:44
 - i. An everlasting kingdom
 - ii. In the days of these kings
 - c. Joel 2:28, 32
 - i. Spirit poured out
 - ii. Remnant will be saved
 - iii. "Afterward"
 - iv. Jerusalem
 - d. Isa. 62:2
 - i. Gentiles will be saved
 - ii. A new name will be given
 - e. Jer. 31:31-32
 - i. - A change in covenant
 - f. Summary: These five passages are a small sample of hundreds of Old Testament prophecies that tantalizingly predict that at some future time there will be a great change in the way God deals with his people.
 - g. Looking forward:
 - i. The prophets themselves wondered about the details of this great event, but the Old Testament closes with many of these questions unanswered
 - ii. Four hundreds years separate the final events of the Old Testament from the beginning events of the New Testament. During this time, we have no record of God making any revelation or communicating with His people.
 - iii. However, as the New Testament begins, we find the messengers of God again prophesying about the coming kingdom...
- IV. The church in the Gospels
 - a. Mat. 3:1-2 & Mat. 4:17

- i. The kingdom which in the Old Testament was declared to be coming in the last days, or in the days of far-off kings, is now said to be “at hand”.
 - ii. The kingdom is close, within reach, but we aren’t yet told how close.
 - b. Matt. 16:18-19
 - i. A little later in the New Testament, a question arises as to who Jesus is. Some thought he was Elijah, John the Baptist or one of the prophets. Peter identified Him as the Christ, the Son of God. This is the answer Jesus gave him.
 - ii. READ Matt. 16:18-19
 - iii. The church has not been built yet. Jesus says he will build it at some time in the future
 - iv. In conjunction with the building of the church, the kingdom will be opened with “keys” provided by the Lord
 - c. Mark 9:1
 - i. We finally have the time for the establishment of the kingdom nailed down.. It would be during the lifetime of some that were listening to Jesus on this occasion.
 - d. John 18:36
 - i. At the trial where Jesus is condemned to death, he makes this statement about the coming kingdom.
 - ii. It will not be a physical kingdom with armies like China or Russia. It will be a spiritual kingdom.
 - iii. Shortly after this, Jesus is executed by hanging on a cross.
 - e. John 19:34
 - i. We see, then that Jesus shed his blood in His death
 - ii. Jesus’ dead body was taken down from the cross and buried, and three days later He was raised from the dead.
 - iii. He spent about 40 days teaching the apostles and showing himself alive to various persons.
- V. The church in Acts and the Epistles
 - a. Acts 1:2-3
 - i. This passage tells us what He was teaching them about: the Kingdom
 - b. Acts 1:4, 8
 - i. He tells them that the promise of the Father will be fulfilled
 - 1. in Jerusalem
 - 2. in just a few days
 - 3. when they receive power with the Holy Spirit
 - ii. He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for this promise to be fulfilled
 - c. Ascension
 - i. After making these statements, Jesus ascended into heaven.
 - ii. Just as Jesus told them to, the apostles returned to Jerusalem to wait for what Jesus had promised.

- iii. The rest of the chapter deals with how Matthias is chosen to take the place of Judas, who had betrayed Jesus and then hanged himself...
- d. Acts 1:26-2:4
 - i. The Holy Spirit came upon them, and they received the power to speak in languages which they had never studied
 - ii. The day of Pentecost came 50 days after the Passover (Lev. 23:15) on which Jesus died.
 - iii. Since the Passover was on Saturday, fifty days later was a Sunday.
 - iv. Pentecost and the reception of the Holy Spirit fell on the first day of the week, Sunday.
- e. Pentecost fulfills Jesus promise in Acts 1:4-8
 - i. Indeed it was not many days, just 10 days, from when Jesus told the apostles they would receive the Holy Spirit and when that promise was fulfilled on Pentecost.
 - ii. **If . . .**
 - 1. Kingdom was to come with power (Mk. 9:1)
 - 2. AND Power was to come when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:4, 8)
 - 3. AND The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost (Acts 2:1,4)
 - iii. **Then . . .**
 - 1. **the kingdom came at Pentecost!!**
 - iv. This is an inescapable conclusion
- f. Acts 2:47
 - i. You remember that in Matt. 16:18, Jesus promised he would build His church.
 - ii. After Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, telling his audience how to be saved, we find this statement...
 - iii. READ Acts 2:47
- g. Acts 8:1
 - i. A little later we find...
 - ii. READ Acts 8:1
 - iii. The church has been established, and all references to the church after Pentecost speak of the church as already existing.
- h. Col. 1:13
 - i. Not only are the saved said to be in the church, they are also said to be in the kingdom.
 - ii. From this we can see that those who are in the church are also in the kingdom.
 - iii. The church and the kingdom are one and the same.
- i. Acts 11:15
 - i. Not only that, Peter identifies the day of Pentecost as the beginning.
 - ii. READ Acts 11:15
 - iii. The beginning of what? The beginning of the kingdom! The beginning of the church!

- iv. So what happened on that pivotal day of Pentecost? Let's go back and look in more detail...
- VI. Fulfillment of OT Prophecies
- a. Acts 2:6-8
 - i. When the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles at Pentecost, they began speaking in tongues
 - b. Acts 2:15-17
 - i. Some people thought the explanation of what they saw and heard was that the apostles were drunk. But Peter denied it...
 - ii. READ Acts 2:15-17
 - iii. This prophecy sounds very familiar. In fact, it is the prophecy made by Joel that we looked at earlier. Peter says, it is being fulfilled today.
 - c. Acts 2 fulfills the OT Prophecies
 - i. Peter said these are the last days spoken of by Joel.
 - ii. Isaiah also spoke of the Lord's house be established in Jerusalem in those same days.
 - iii. Daniel said an everlasting kingdom would be established.
 - iv. All these prophesies are being fulfilled.
 - d. Other Prophecies fulfilled
 - i. Acts 11:26
 - 1. At Antioch, shortly after the first Gentiles are converted, the saints begin to be called by a new name. The new name is "Christian"
 - 2. This appears to be a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 62:2
 - ii. Heb. 8:6-8
 - 1. Notice also this passage, where the writer compares the Old Testament with the New.
 - 2. READ Heb. 8:6-8
 - 3. Hebrews teaches that the New Testament is the new covenant that was prophesied by Jeremiah that would be different from the one God gave "when He took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt".
 - 4. The old covenant that was replaced was the Law of Moses.
- VII. Conclusion
- a. This chart summarizes what we have been studying...
 - i. All the arrows of prophecy from the Old Testament and through the Gospels point forward to the establishment of the church-kingdom on the day of Pentecost.
 - ii. After that, the church and kingdom are both spoken of in the present tense and the Day of Pentecost is referred to as the beginning.
 - iii. The church that Jesus built was the church that began on the day of Pentecost
 - b. Invitation

- i. That is the church I want to be a part of
- ii. That is the church that this congregation is seeking to pattern it's faith, teaching and practice after
 - 1. By examining the church that Jesus established in the First Century
 - 2. And following that example in simplicity and faith today
- iii. Do you want to be a part of that church?
 - 1. Then you need to turn away from any additions, subtractions, revisions or innovations of man
 - 2. And seek out a church that matches the plain descriptions that we find in the N T of the church began on the day of Pentecost
- iv. The terms for Entry into that church were given on the same day the church began
 - 1. Acts 2:38, 42, 47
 - 2. If we do the same things, we will get the same result
 - 3. The promise was not just for them but also for all mankind

c. OPTIONAL MATERIAL

- i. In our next lesson, Lord willing, we will look at some essential characteristics of Christ's church that was established at Pentecost, and also try to answer the question, where did all the churches that we see around us today come from?
- ii. Universal problem – Sin
- iii. Universal failure – Man's attempts to deal with sin – Live perfectly, give up
- iv. Universal solution – Jesus blood shed to clean all sin, OT sin/NT sin, past sin/future sin, Jews sins/Gentiles sins. All sin
- v. Universal opportunity – Acts 2:38,39